

A  
 REVIEW  
 OF THE  
 STATE  
 OF THE  
 ENGLISH NATION.

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Tuesday, March, 12. 1706.

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**I** Can at present go a little farther in my intended Importunities, for the Relief of that Distress'd Multitude of Mankind, now under the Severe Hands of Commissions, Laws, of Perpetual Imprisonment ; it is suppos'd by that time this Paper shall appear in the World, the Case will be decided, and a Law to give some Ease to them, either Pass'd or Rejected.

I confess, I have thought it strange, to find that some People have been very Unwilling, the little Relief design'd by it, should affect any Body already in the Condition of a Bankrupt, only such as shall for the future happen to have that Misfortune, unless such can Assign any Difference, in the Disasters of one from another, that Failing last Year, should be a Crime, Meriting no Mercy from the Creditor, and

Failing next Year, a Misfortune to be Pity'd and Provided ; this is to make the former, only like Children Born out of Season, and divesting of the Claim every Unhappy Person has to the tenderness of the Government.

But this Matter needs small Explication, and the less, since some Gentlemen are forward to Explain it themselves, and to acknowledge, that they Oppose this Law, upon their Private Special Concern with some Bankrupts, they are resolv'd to use as Severely as they can.

If this be so, those Gentlemen discover some very Unhappy Principles, which how well they Comport with their Characters, I Refer to their own Consideration.

1. That they are Implacable in their Revenge, a Principle not allow'd among Christians,

Christians, and very ill agreeing with the True Spirit of an *Englishman*, or a Gentleman.

2. That they have very little Concern for the Misery of Thousands of Families, that they should put their Hands to the continuing their Misery, rather than not pursue their Angry Warmth against one of their Debtors.

I will not be positive here, how far this may affect one particular Gentleman, *who, in Respect to himself, I forbear to name*, and who has a Relation, in either House of Parliament, who, as I am Inform'd, pursues this Bill, to Destroy it meerly, as he thinks it will be a Service to the Author of this Paper, against whom he has a Legal, tho' no Equitable Demand.

But as I am Credibly Inform'd, he has Express'd himself something plainly, by the Mouth of his said Relations in this Case; I Humbly make him this Offer.

1. That quitting or waving his Advantage of Law, which was obtain'd, when the Author was Embroil'd in a Publick Disaster, and not able to Defend himself; he is ready to come to a hearing in Equity, of the Justice of his Debt, and to give him good Security to stand by the award.

2. That if his Debt be real, which is in it self small, it would be but a weak Argument against this Bill, since some, to whom he owes thirteen times as much, gave their Attendance at the House, to declare their Willingness to have it Pass'd.

And lastly, such is my Sincere Zeal, for the Publick Benefit of this Clause, and my just Concern, for the Numbers of Families that shall be Reliev'd by it, that I attended at the House of Lords my self, ready to have Declar'd my willingness, to be excepted out of it, rather than so Necessary a Bill should have been lost, for want of my being remov'd out of the way.

And whether it shall be too late or not, when this Paper is Publish'd, *that matter depending upon one Days Debate*; I freely offer to that Gentleman, that if he can

Assign any thing particular, any thing Unfair, either in that Debt, or any other of mine, *more than Common Disaster*, as a reason, why I should have no Benefit of that Law; I'll still be an Humble Petitioner to the Parliament, to be excepted from it.

As to Satyrs, and Pointings in anything I have Wrote in the Word, which I am Inform'd is Objected, as against a Certain Member of the House of C...s, I am perswaded he is too much a Gentleman, to Concern any Resentment of that sort, in a matter of this Nature, which if not, would Administer more Subject of Satyr, than the meanest Action of his Life; and I perswade my self, he is not capable of any thing, so different from the rest of his Character.

After all I have said, whether this Act pass or no, whether the People now in Distress shall be Reliev'd this way or no; I am perswaded, there will not be a Creditor in a Thousand, will say a Year hence, they gain'd by it; the Debtor must certainly be weaken'd more and more, the longer he stays in the Condition now Suggested; Debtors can spend no Bodies Money but their Creditors, and where the Policy of it lyes is a perfect Mystery to me, and past finding out.

I shall say no more to it, but if it does not pass this Session, for want of Time and Application, the Miserable Objects must wait another Year, when I doubt not, the Grievance will be Encreas'd to a Magnitude, sufficient to awaken the whole Nation.

Mean time I am satisfi'd, I have in this done my Part, and Discharg'd my self to the World, and have the Satisfaction of the Concurring Testimony of others, even those that differ from me in other Cases; of which among several others, I cannot but give the following a Place here, the Gentleman who ever he is, Writing with such Candor and Calmness, that I must Confess Pleases me; and would all Men deal with the same Ingenuity, I should

not



not be so often call'd from my pursuit of the Trading Exigence, as I am, and as I am still like to be; I am Sorry it is otherwise, and that I cannot Grant his Request so much, as I would. I shall always endeavour to Reflect on the Account I have to give of the Sincerity of my Intentions, not in this Paper only, but in every Action of my Life.

S I R,

I Am of a contrary Opinion to you, both as to Religion and Government, but that does not binder me from Applauding you, when I think you in the right. The Subject you are on, Of the Severity of the Law of ENGLAND, to Unfortunate Honest Debtors must be own'd, by all Wise and Good Men, to be very fit for the Consideration of the Wisdom of the Nation, and the way to procure that Consideration, to be speedily enred upon, is, without doubt, to make the Legislature sensible, how great a part of the people of England suffer, by the Severity of the Laws in being, and that without Benefit to any Body.

Secondly, How much the Nation, as such, is a loser by those Laws. And,

Thirdly, How just a Reason they afford to Strangers, to Contemn the Politicks of our Countrymen.

If these three things were sufficiently known and thought of, I doubt not but they would soon produce an Alteration of the Laws before hinted at; for I remember no instance of any real Grievance, which the People of England once Represented as such in Parliament; but the Weight of the Matter did overpower all Objected Difficulties, and the wholsom Law was at last Enacted; and being sensible, that nothing more Alarms, or warms our English Parliament, than the Common Voice of those without Doors; I must Encourage you to go on, in making what you have undertaken Clear and Publick; I am not certain, whether you ever made Reflection on the abundant Good or Evil, which a Writer of a Publick Paper may Contribute to, and con-

sequently of the very Great Account he has to give, both, of the Sincerity of his Intentions, and of the Consequences of his Writings, which, tho' not intended, might reasonably be expected to follow from 'em. But this I am sure of, viz. would you stick only to such Subjects, as you are now upon, and Treat of 'em in such manner, as I believe you capable; you would have the Prayers, and Thanks of many Miserable; and many who are now your Enemies, upon the Score of the REVIEW, would become your Friend, and instead of Railing or Laughing at it, Declare themselves its open Patrons, and Avow'd Vindicators.—Getting of Money is a very good, and Honest Consideration, for a Man Applying himself to any sort of Business, which is not Evil in it self; but he that could get as much by Treating it so as to do good, as he could by treating it so as to do none, or probably to do Mischiefe, must be very little a Friend to Mankind or himself; if he does it not in the former manner, and this I take to be the Case of Statesmen, Priests, Lawyers, and the Writers of Publick Papers, and considering the Present Bent of the English Nation, their Insching Curiosity, their Opinion of their own Private Politicks, the Right they think they have to be inform'd of every thing relating to the Government of the Weal Publick, and the little regard they Express to things Serious, or Sacred; I question whether a Reviewer, may not be capable of Contributing more to Good or Evil, than either of the other three; for I am satisfi'd by Experience, that there are a Hundred Thousand People in this Kingdom, that read a REVIEW with some Pleasure and Application, who neither mind what a Statesman does, nor care what a Priest or a Lawyer say.

I am,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant.

A D E V R.

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